

Appl. No.: 10/034,180
Attorney Docket No. 10541-798
Reply to Final Office Action of February 26, 2004

III. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-16, and 19-31 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 17, and 18 have been amended. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 2, 17-18, and 32-34 remain pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter in claims 32-34.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicants have cancelled claim 1, 3, and 7-8, and therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 1.

Rejections Under 35 USC §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,776,235 to Gleasman *et al.* ("Gleasant"). The Applicants have cancelled claims 9-13, and therefore respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

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Rejections Under 35 USC §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 7-8, 14, 16-20, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Gleasman and U.S. Patent No. 6,520,880 to Fukushima *et al* ("Fukushima").

The Applicants have cancelled claims 1-3, 7-8, 14, 16, 19-20, and 23-25. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from claim 32. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

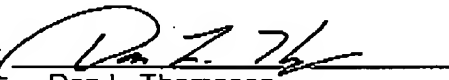
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Conclusion

The Applicants assert that pending Claims 2, 17, 18, and 32-34 as amended are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Dan L. Thompson
Registration No. P54,490
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
Telephone: (734) 302-6000